

Claim Amendments:

1. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of arthritis comprising administering to a subject suffering from arthritis a composition comprising a function blocking antibody or a fragment of said antibody capable of binding an epitope of VLA-1, wherein the epitope consists of the amino acids Val-Gln-Arg-Gly-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:8) or equivalents thereof, ~~or naturally occurring variants thereto,~~ and wherein the function blocking antibody or a fragment thereof is administered to the subject in a dosage of between about 10 mg to about 250 mg administered over a dosing period of between about one to about seven days to provide a decrease in arthritic score of about 65% or greater when compared to a control antibody treated subject.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the decrease in arthritic score is about 79% or greater.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the decrease in arthritic score is about 85% or greater.
4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the decrease in arthritic score is about 90% or greater.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.
6. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject is a human.
7. (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.